



ABERBARGOED Primary school,



GOVERNORS REPORT
2024





Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body, it gives me a great sense of pride to provide this annual update to you and, we hope, you find it incredibly informative and useful.

I would like to give a warm welcome to all parents, new and current, to our wonderful school, which is rooted firmly in the heart of Aberbargoed community. Aberbargoed Primary has a remarkable history but also very strong sense of ambition for its future.

The last 12 months has seen a period of exciting change within the Governing Body. We have several enthusiastic new members and together we are working hard to improve links between the school, the local community and, to enhance the learning experiences of the children of Aberbargoed Primary School.

This year we said farewell to John Rowlands who has been a hugely committed member of staff at Aberbargoed for 32 years. Special thanks to Mr Rowlands for his dedication to our school community and wish you the very best for your retirement.

As a Governing Body we are proud of the progress the school has made over the last year. The learning environment is incredibly vibrant and we are certain that you will be impressed by the facilities the Headteacher and wonderful staff have developed. Our sincere thanks to the enthusiastic staff body who frequently go above and beyond to ensure every child is valued, and able to flourish in their own way.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for the support you provide the school. We look forward to working with you on our learning journey, where 'Every Child Matters'

Diolch yn fawr!

Kelly Waythe
Chair of Governors



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Mission Statement and Ethos



Aberbargoed Primary is a set in the heart of the community of Aberbargoed. We are a community focused school who believe that learners and families should be at the heart of all our decision making. We aim to make our school a nurturing, safe and happy environment for learners where everyone feels they are valued. Prioritising pupil wellbeing, we believe, provides learners with the best start in life.

We aspire for all our learners to become:

- ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors who and are ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical, informed citizens who and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world;
- healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

In order to achieve this, our school works collaboratively to provide the highest quality teaching and learning experiences; rich in knowledge, skills and enrichment opportunities that broaden the horizons of our learners. We are committed to providing an inclusive environment where the needs of all children are met and our school ethos **“Everyone Matters”, “Mae Pawb Yn Bwysig”** comes to life. We aim to provide a curriculum that is relevant, engaging and innovative; inspiring every child to achieve their potential. Our curriculum builds on prior knowledge and encourages personal development as learners become confident, resilient, problem solvers, ready to take on the exciting challenges ahead in life.

Developing learners as informed citizens within a local, national and international context, our goal is to uncover a world of possibilities and pathways to success. We celebrate differences and encourage respect for diversity. As a school in Wales we are proud of our heritage and embrace this throughout our curriculum and wider learning opportunities for pupils. Working together as a network of support we believe we can achieve anything!





Details of Governing Body



Chairperson	Mrs K. Waythe
Vice Chairperson	Mrs L. Reed
Parent Governors (1 vacancy)	Mrs S Harding Mrs R Hamer Mrs A Rose
Community Governors	Mrs L Reed Mrs K Waythe Ms S Blucher
Minor Authority Governor	Miss M Ingram-Jones
Local Authority Governor (1 vacancy)	Mrs N Davies Mrs V Bodenham
Staff Governor	
Teacher Governor	Mrs E Roach-Rooke

Financial Statement



OLAS	OUTTURN BUDGET 2022/2023
EMPLOYEES	£
Teachers	585,427.00
Support Staff	542,170.00
Other Staff related costs	23,300.00
Sub Total	1,150,897.00
PREMISES RELATED	
Building Maintenance	31,535.00
Grounds Maintenance	1,578.00
Gas	18,758.00
Electricity	24,944.00
Rates	23,085.00
Water	3,345.00
Cleaning Contract	21,642.00
Cleaning Materials	2,365.00
Refuse Collection	3,390.00
Insurance	6,602.00
S.Units/H. Driers/C. Hygiene	231.00
Fire Fixtures	-
CCTV	375.00
Alarms	930.00
Sub Total	138,780.00
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	
Computer Costs	4,439.00
Furniture	-
Postage	55.00
Capitation/Stationary	32,412.00
Medical	245.00
Licences	234.00
Music Support Services	6,458.00
Telephone Charges	5,106.00
Photocopying	6,501.00
Transport Hire / Swimming	3,527.00
Uniform/Protective clothing	-
Activities / Trips	12,059.00
Long Service Award	-
Exam Fees	-
Foods not resold	485.00
School Website	-
Data Protection costs	-
In Year Clawback SEN	1,799.00
Sub Total	73,320.00
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	
All Services	29,368.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,392,365.00
INCOME	
Reimbursement School Meals	11,590.00
Supply Compensation	13,200.00
LA Income	424.00
Devolved funding	37,459.00
Miscellaneous income	15,376.00
Rent	-
Donations	-
Grant Funding - EAS	76,395.00
EIG/PDG Income	197,271.00
GTC & other training grants	3,437.00
LEA Fees	-
Cashiers Over / Under	-
Early Years Funding	12,632.00
Retrospective Funding Other	
TOTAL INCOME	367,784.00
NET EXPENDITURE	1,024,581.00
TOTAL SURPLUS/CONTINGENCY	17,552.00
TOTAL	1,042,133.00
TOTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL	
FUNDING	
Formula Allocation (net of retro. adj)	934,803.00
Retrospective Adjustment from prev yr.	- 823.00
Total Formula Allocation	933,980.00
Total Carried Forward from prev. yr.	108,153.00
TOTAL FUNDING	1,042,133.00
BUDGET SHORTEALL	

School Performance

Following an inspection by Estyn in June 2022, Aberbargoed Primary was placed in a category of Estyn review. Following a eighteen months of hard work by staff, governors, pupils and our wider community, school was reinspected in December 2023. Governors are proud to report that Aberbargoed Primary was removed from Estyn review. Below are just some of the strengths of the school's performance during 2023-24:

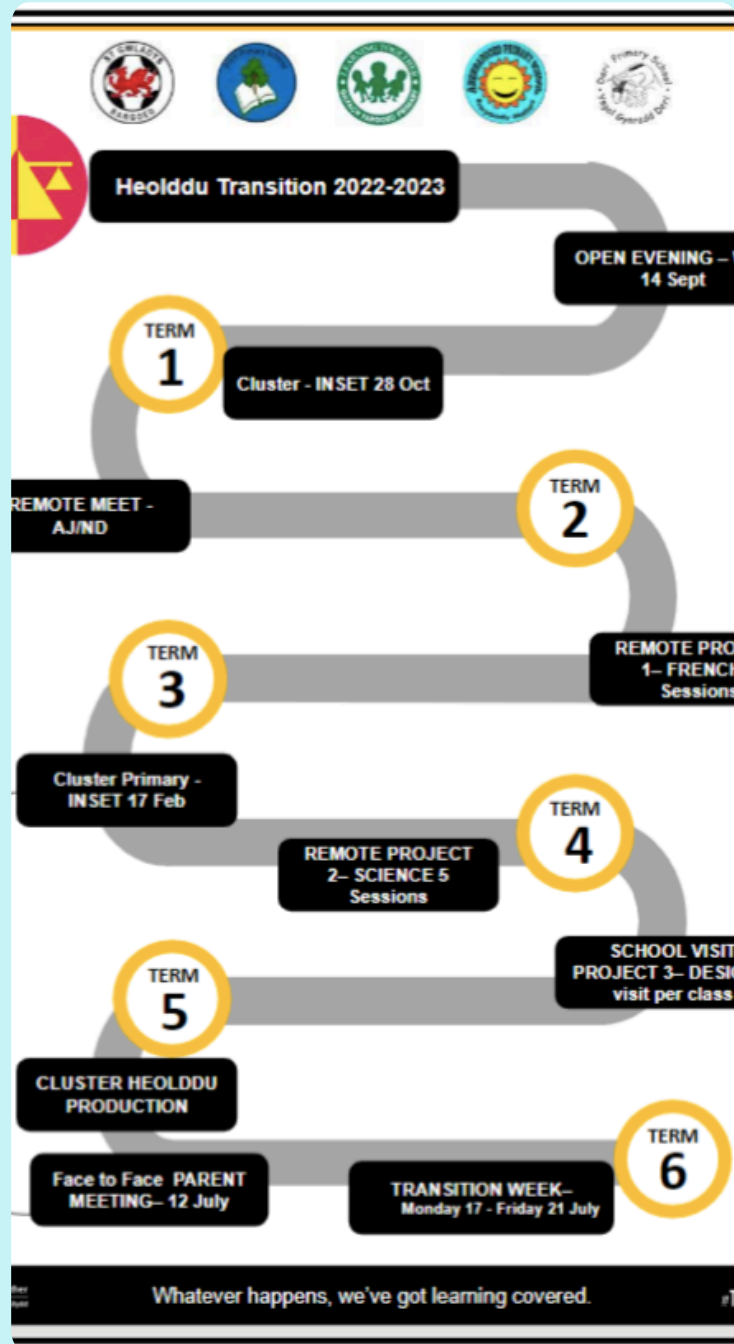
- Staff are effectively embedding new planning, resulting in improved progression and differentiation of tasks through wider skills.
- Interventions led by effective teaching assistants positively impact teaching, learning and behaviour. Behaviour for learning is improved throughout school.
- Learning environments promote increasing independence and use of digital and wider skills.
- The average progress in reading ages for pupils in year three to year six was greater than expected for the academic year.
- Application of digital skills in cross-curricular activities is developing, with a majority of learners demonstrating a progressive application of digital skills in an authentic and purposeful context.
- Pupil surveys indicate an increase from 49% (June 2022) to 89% (June 2024) of pupils enjoy school most or all of the time and 90% of pupils enjoy learning in most or all of their lessons.
- All pupils surveyed feel their opinions are sought and acted upon. Increasing pupil voice through the implementation of a greater range of pupil voice groups has supported this.



Transition



The Year 6 transition to secondary school programme was a comprehensive and engaging initiative aimed at supporting pupils' smooth progression into Year 7. This year, the programme incorporated a variety of activities, ensuring both academic and emotional readiness for secondary education.



1. Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Online Sessions
2. Pupils had the opportunity to participate in interactive MFL online sessions, giving them early exposure to secondary school language learning.
3. Visits to Heolddu Comprehensive School
4. Pupils participated in a science and design lesson, providing practical practical learning experiences
5. Transition Week
6. At the end of the summer term, the pupils enjoyed a dedicated transition week at Heolddu. During this time, they met their future classmates and teachers while following their Year 7 timetable. This immersion into secondary school life helped to ease anxieties and allowed them to get accustomed to the daily routines and expectations of their new school setting.
7. Enhanced Transition Support
8. For pupils requiring additional support, an enhanced transition programme was also implemented. Multi-agency panel meetings were held to gather guidance and input from external agencies to address specific needs. Additionally, the ALNCo delivered wellbeing workshops to further support pupils' emotional and educational needs.
9. Parents also played an integral role in the transition process, attending individual meetings at Heolddu Comprehensive School to provide an opportunity to share additional information about their child, address any concerns, and clarify queries before the start of the new school year.

Transition

Overall, the transition programme has been a well-structured and thoughtful approach to ensuring Year 6 pupils are well-prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for their move to secondary school in September.

Within school, we provide effective transition support through the summer term. Pupils meet their new teacher and class based adults as well as experiences multiple days in their new learning environments. Meet the teacher information is shared with families also. Pupils who may need additional support during transition are provided with enhanced opportunities over an extended period of time.

Rising three pupils and nursery pupils are invited to stay and play sessions prior to starting school to encourage their confidence in their new environment.



Targets for improvement 2024-25

1. Improve standards when writing at length.
2. Improve standards in reading for meaning.
3. Improve consistency in pedagogical approaches to the teaching of maths and numeracy to improve pupil progress.
4. Further develop pedagogical approaches to improve high quality feedback and feedforward to move learning forward within lessons
5. Improve attendance.



Our school in the community

Aberbargoed Primary is proud to be part of a diverse and inclusive community. Over the last year the school has worked with parents through workshops and a variety of community groups to provide experiences for our learners. School has also been supported by a range of local businesses to provide resources and rewards for our learners. We look forward to building on these links in the future.

Some examples of projects include:

- Aberbargoed Community Action Team - Christmas and St David's intergenerational events; Scarecrow Project and Remembrance events.
- Attendance rewards.
- Helping Hands events - multi agency workshops to support families by signposting to support services available
- Implementing a uniform bank
- Circus Raj.

Developing pupil leadership groups have enabled learners to understand their role and responsibility for developing their community within school and the wider area. Pupils feel their opinions and suggestions are valued and respected.



Extra-curricular and Enrichment Activities

Throughout the year of 2023-2024, the school have provided a wide and varied range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. We strive to give the children as many opportunities as possible to boost their confidence through social interaction and provide them with an opportunity to gain new skills and abilities. Below are some examples of the extra-curricular clubs that have been offered to the pupils over the last year:

- Netball
- Multi-sport
- Gardening
- Lego
- Cookery
- Glee
- Arts and Crafts
- Games
- Dance



Extra-curricular and Enrichment Activities

In addition to this, the school is proud to have offered pupils many enrichment activities and events during the past year, to extend their learning through new and varied activities outside of the curriculum. These have been listed below:

- School trips - All classes enjoyed the opportunity to attend a school visit this term outside of the school grounds. Pupils explored science, environmental issues, transport and nature.
- Creative schools project - KS2 classes have been involved in the creative schools project.
- Gilwern residential - Year 6 - Adventurous activities including caving, abseiling etc.
- BBC orchestra of Wales visit to school.
- Royal College of Music and Drama and Cardiff Museum visit.
- Dementia Friendly Schools training and visit for pupils and staff.
- Easter bonnet parade and egg hunt.
- Performances in school - Pantomime, puppet show.
- Puppet making workshop.
- Rotary Club - debating event, Year 6.
- STEM cluster event - Girls engineering.
- Welsh National Opera visit.
- Senedd visit.
- Author visits to to school.
- Celebrating notable calendar events e.g. Children's Mental Health Day, Diversity Week, Children in Need etc.
- British Sign Language workshops.
- Library visits.
- Visits from local partner school - sent cards and shared experiences.



We understand the importance of providing these opportunities for our pupils so that they can explore their interests and passions outside of a structured classroom environment. All of these experiences are instrumental in allowing creativity and the ability to express themselves in different ways.

The Governing Body would like to thank the school for their work in offering these opportunities.

Sport

This year we have taken part in a wide variety of sporting, health and fitness activities including;

- Dance showcase.
- Forces Fitness – ‘military’ style health and fitness sessions run by visiting ex or serving members of the armed forces.
- Cricket workshops.
- Inter schools sports festivals and tournaments – football, athletics, hockey, golf, rugby, cross-country.

Planned P.E. sessions each week throughout all classes, covering games, gymnastics, athletics and dance.

We also take part in the Daily Mile each day!

Also on offer are Extracurricular clubs which focus on health and fitness, netball and multi-sport club.

The pupils have also voiced their opinions with regards to playtimes. Pupil voice led investment in a new playtime resources to promote a range of games and skills such as hoops, ball skills, goals and outdoor games.



Sport

We have also heard from the Health and Wellbeing team and they have informed us that they have re-written the overview of the skills delivered in P.E. sessions thought the year, in readiness for the new academic year, encouraging coverage, progression and variety of skills.

Another note to mention is that we have also provided a wide range of opportunities for pupils to engage in adventurous and risk taking experiences. Year 6 recently visited Gilwern and took part in amazing activities such as caving and abseiling.

We have also secured sponsorship to purchase new water bottles for all pupils in readiness for September.

Creative Activities

At Aberbargoed Primary we believe in the importance of allowing pupil creativity to thrive. Investment in expressive arts promotes self-confidence and engagement for learners throughout school.

During transition week, pupils throughout school completed an artist study and presented work inspired by the artist in a wonderful art gallery for the school community.

Pupils from year two to year six enjoyed the opportunity to receive dance lessons. This resulted in a phenomenal dance showcase in which over 90 pupils performed for large audiences.



Creative Activities

As part of Lead Creative School projects pupils in year four to six participated in projects promoting links between oracy and expressive arts. A whole school demonstration promoting the importance of projecting our environment formed part of this project and supported our school goals to develop pupils as ethical informed citizens. School has been able to secure grant funding to enable the project to move into it's second year next year. We are looking forward to the opportunities this presents for our learners.



Visitors throughout the year inspire our learners to develop their creative thinking. Pupils were fortunate to participate in performances by the BBC orchestra for Wales.

Opportunities available for pupils 2023-24 include peripatetic lessons in: drumming, violin, brass, singing, pbuzz and ukulele. As well as visits to the Welsh Millennium centre, pantomimes, performances by visitors and many more experiences.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their creative thinking and problem solving skills across the curriculum. Experiences such as mini enterprise allow learners to use wider skills of literacy, numeracy and digital skills to enhance their creative thinking. These projects also encourage the development of financial management skills and collaborative working.

Family engagement activities linked to Remembrance Day, St David's day and other home learning activities also encourage a celebration of creative thinking. We are always amazed at the fantastic skills our families have when sharing their home learning challenges.



Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is integral in all aspects of school life. Pupil's mental health is a central part of the curriculum, which is taught through the Jigsaw scheme. It is also integrated through the curriculum and as part of wider celebrations. Below are a just a small range of examples demonstrating what school has achieved and celebrated this year.

Mental Wellbeing

- Children's mental health week
- Dementia Friends Workshops
- Green behaviour points
- Attendance rewards

Workshops and Visitors

- First aid training
- Sign language
- Show Racism the Red Card
- Creative lead schools project
- Puppet workshop

Celebrations

Our school believes in the importance of developing our pupils as ethical, informed citizens. Providing opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding, the school has celebrated:

- Anti-bullying week
- Pride month
- Black history month



Healthy Eating

Providing healthy food and drink is vital to any child's development, and we're proud to be supporting our pupils every way that we can. School continues to support and encourage learners to develop their understanding of the importance of healthy choices in relation to food and drinks. School has also implemented the launch of a new lunchtime menu alongside provision of free school meals for pupils from Reception to Year 6.

In the last academic year we have offered a broad range of healthy eating and drinking activities and support for pupils and families of Aberbargoed Primary School. Learning opportunities include:

- Extra curricular cookery club
- Food tasting activities planned through various classes, e.g. tasting Roman food, tasting fruit and vegetables etc.,
- Cooking activities - making recipes to support topics in class, e.g. Welsh cakes, pizza etc., These planned activities develop children's life skills, e.g. hygiene, using tools safely etc.,
- Exploring healthy eating habits through the PSE curriculum using the Jigsaw Scheme of work - Healthy Me.
- Water bottles - sponsorship from a local business enabled school to purchase new water bottles pupils throughout school in readiness for the new academic year.
- Healthy Snacks - children are allowed to bring a healthy snack of fruit to school. In Nursery, pupils develop their social skills through daily 'Snack and Chat' sessions, where they make choices, try new foods, and learn to use tools safely, e.g. spreading and cutting.



Healthy Eating and Drinking

- School dinners - Free school dinners are available for all primary age children, from Reception to Year 6 - on average, 132 pupils take up dinners each day from 196 eligible (67%).
- Breakfast club - an average of 30-40 pupils attend.
- 12 day Food and Fun summer holiday project to promote positive attitudes to nutrition, as well as physical and mental health. 43 children signed up to the programme.

We're so excited to share all the wonderful ways Aberbargoed Primary helps our students grow and thrive with healthy food and drink options. We know how important it is for our children to have the best possible start, and we're committed to supporting them every step of the way!

We're working on bringing back our fruit snack shop! We can't wait to offer our students fresh, delicious fruits that show just how tasty healthy snacking can be.

Here's to another fantastic year of supporting our students' health and happiness!



Term dates and links to prospectus

School term dates

Autumn Term 2024

- ▶ Term starts Monday 2 September 2024
- ▶ Half term starts Monday 28 October 2024
- ▶ Half term ends Friday 1 November 2024
- ▶ Term ends Friday 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2025

- ▶ Term starts Monday 6 January 2025
- ▶ Half term starts Monday 24 February 2025
- ▶ Half term ends Friday 28 February 2025
- ▶ Term ends Friday 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

- ▶ Term starts Monday 28 April 2025
- ▶ Half term starts Monday 26 May 2025
- ▶ Half term ends Friday 30 May 2025
- ▶ Term ends Monday 21 July 2025

Use the link below to access the school prospectus:

[Prospectus](#)

Curriculum map

Our Values

Resilience, Belonging, Fairness,
Friendliness, Happiness,
Respect, Empathy and Humour

At Aberbargoed Primary we aim to prepare learners for:

- Engaging in the wider world.
- Being members of a global community.
- Developing positive relationships.
- Dealing with success and failure.
- Comprehensive school.
- college/University
- World of work.
- Real situations including managing money.

We do this by:

- Developing transferable skills.
- Providing engaging and authentic learning experiences.
- Building confidence and aspiration.
- Empowering learners.

UNCRC Articles 3 and 28.

**We have a 'Grow' Curriculum
to ensure our learners
challenge themselves to reach
their goals through real and
authentic experiences.**



ALN

Aberbargoed Primary School is a nurturing and inclusive school where the needs of all pupils are at the centre of everything we plan. Creating an inclusive school environment for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is essential for fostering a supportive and equitable educational experience. At our school, we are committed to ensuring that every pupil, regardless of their individual challenges, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. By embracing diversity and implementing tailored support strategies, we aim to create a nurturing atmosphere where all pupils can achieve their full potential. Our dedicated staff work collaboratively with families and specialists to provide personalised learning plans, ensuring that each child’s unique needs are met with compassion and expertise. Through this inclusive approach, we strive to build a community where every pupil feels valued, understood, and empowered to succeed.

Interventions:

We fully appreciate school interventions play a crucial role in supporting pupils’ academic and personal development. By implementing targeted strategies and programmes, teachers can address specific learning needs, enhance student engagement, and promote overall wellbeing. These interventions, ranging from small group to 1:1, are designed to help pupils overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. Through a collaborative approach involving teachers, parents/ carers, and specialists, school interventions ensure that every pupil receives the necessary resources and guidance to succeed in their educational journey. The current interventions offered at Aberbargoed Primary include:



Gingerbear	Targeted reader	Fine Motor group
ELSA	Attention Autism	ComIT
Thrive	Get Moving!	Attendance Circles
Lifeboat Reading	Let’s get busy	Read Write Inc. Catch up
Sensory Circuits	Maths Catch up	Food avoidance
Sensory room allocated time	Draw and Talk	Talkabout
Lego Therapy	Precision Teaching	Nurture

Professional Learning Opportunities for staff:

Professional learning opportunities for school staff are essential in effectively supporting learners with additional learning needs. These opportunities provide all staff with the latest strategies, tools, and knowledge to create inclusive and adaptive learning environments. Through workshops, training sessions, and collaborative learning communities, staff have had the opportunities to enhance their skills in Neurodivergence within the classroom, Selective Mutism and have all received introductory training in supporting with eating disorders – All of which were identified as a priority for the school. By investing in continuous professional development ensures everyone in Aberbargoed Primary are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of all pupils by fostering a supportive and inclusive educational experience.

ALN Developments 2023-2024 :

1. As part of our Additional Learning Needs (ALN) journey, we have been focusing on refining our tracking and monitoring systems. We have reviewed and refined the entry and exit criteria for each ALN stage, and further enhanced our target setting with children. Incorporating elements of the One Page Profile and target setting into a single document for each child, we have devised a Pupil Passport for every student in the school. These Pupil Passports are shared with parents and updated during parents' evenings. Each class teacher completes this with the pupils as part of a pupil-centered meeting, providing a great opportunity to understand and meet the needs of each learner.
2. Every class has a One Page Profile that outlines the ALN needs of the students in that class, identifying each learner at their specific stage of ALN. All staff have received training on how to complete these profiles and how effective support can enhance the learning of our students. We have developed a graduated response ALN triangle linked to the Code of Practice and our school provision map for each class. All classrooms now have a calming space, and each teacher has identified the necessary resources for their universal provision and to support their targeted learners.
3. We have also developed a new sensory room, allowing us to offer sensory room interventions, and purchased new sensory circuit equipment. The ELSA room has been improved to create an inviting space for ELSA intervention and Thrive sessions, making it perfect for meetings with parents and outside agencies.

Welsh Language and Bilingualism

Aberbargoed Primary School seeks every opportunity to promote bilingualism. Pupils are taught Welsh as a second language. It enriches their knowledge and understanding of the culture and heritage of Wales. It develops their personalities and ability to contribute to the community giving them a sense of place and identity, of 'Cynhefin'. Cynhefin is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as 'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable'. At Aberbargoed Primary School we want our students and staff to feel that they belong to an increasingly bilingual community.

Pupils and staff speak Welsh throughout the day both in and out of the classroom. Each class from Reception to Year 2 identifies a pupil to be 'Helpwr Heddiw', while the Criw Cymraeg help create resources for language games.

The Criw Cymreig were instrumental in helping the school achieve the Bronze Campus Cymraeg Award. We are very proud of their hard work, including leading weekly assemblies and presenting Siaradwr Gymraeg awards to celebrate pupils giving extra effort to practise Welsh oracy skills throughout the week.

Our school follows The Siarter Iaith. This is a Charter introduced by the Welsh Assembly to all schools in Wales, to promote the Welsh language, to develop a Welsh ethos and encourage pupils to improve their Welsh language skills. It provides a framework for schools to develop learners as ambitious and capable, as part of the Welsh Government's target to have 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

At Aberbargoed Primary, we always enjoy our Eisteddfod activities and viewing the amazing home learning projects completed by pupils. This year the theme for our Eisteddfod was 'Celebrating the Diversity of Wales'. We are very proud to be part of a rich, diverse community, full of excellent Welsh role models for our pupils to aspire to. A summer topic based on the work of a local author and illustrator was just one example of how we enhanced the curriculum by celebrating the work of famous, inspirational Welsh people.



Toilet Facilities

There are sets of toilets for both boys and girls in all areas of the school. Toilets are located in all classrooms from Nursery to Year 2. Boys and Girls toilets are located in the corridor for year 3 -Year 6. There are also disabled toilet facilities and toilets for use by adults and visitors. All toilets are cleaned daily by the cleaners.

All facilities are fitted with wash hand basins and hand dryers, with hand wash foam.

